UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/686
23 August 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 23 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of a letter dated 22 August 1996 from H.E. Mr. Petros Solomon, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea, to H.E. Ambassador Francis Gutmann, Special Envoy of the President of the French Republic, regarding the situation in the Lesser Hanish islands in the Red Sea.

(Signed) Amdemicael KAHSAI
Permanent Representative

96-21712 (E) 230896 240896

/...

Annex

Letter dated 22 August 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Eritrea addressed to the Special Envoy of the President of France

The unilateral decision we have undertaken to evacuate from Lesser Hanish in order to ensure that the arbitration process is not hampered and to avoid getting immersed in unnecessary wrangling remains in place.

However, there are indications that establish an unbridled Yemeni intention to occupy Lesser Hanish when we evacuate it. If this transpires, it will precipitate a very dangerous situation. Rather than complaining and regretting the fact after it occurs, it is imperative that guarantees be made a priori to avert such a dangerous eventuality. In this spirit, we wish to request, in advance, your views and stance on the vital matter of guarantees.

(Signed) Petros SOLOMON